

EXHIBIT 54

From: "jpseeryjr@gmail.com" <jpseeryjr@gmail.com>

To: <mpatrick@dafholdco.com>, Shawn Raver <sraver@dafholdco.com>, "Louis M. Phillips" <Louis.Phillips@kellyhart.com>, <amelia.hurt@kellyhart.com>, <jshields@shieldslegal.com>

Cc: "John A. Morris" <jmorris@pszjlaw.com>, David Klos <DKlos@HighlandCapital.com>, Tim Cournoyer <TCournoyer@HighlandCapital.com>, Jeff Pomerantz <jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>, "Gregory V. Demo" <GDemo@pszjlaw.com>

Subject: PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2025 19:34:04 -0400

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 4923-8662-5850.v9_Highland-HMIT-Rand_Settlement_Agreement.doc

HMIT Team:

Subject to our NDA, and further to our prior discussions, attached please find a draft settlement agreement.

The draft is consistent with the term sheet and the illustrative payment deck we reviewed with you.

However, we changed the timing of certain of the "gives" and "gets" so that the payments, reserves, releases, and litigation assignments, as well as a best-efforts undertaking are exchanged at or around execution. This is consistent with the DAF agreement, and these exchanges do not require Bankruptcy Court approval. We believe that an immediate exchange of as much of the material value of the settlement as possible is in the best interests of both sides.

The Class 10 claim allowance and the application of the HMIT Note to fix the amount requires court approval and is set up that way with future Indemnity Trust payments keyed to the Bankruptcy Court order becoming final. To assure that the order is timely procured and the expectations of the parties protected, we have included the aforementioned best efforts undertaking to reconstruct the essential terms of the deal and deliver it to the parties if for any reason the claim allowance is not approved or is overturned. We do believe there is much risk to either denial or reversal.

We are at your disposal. It may make sense for us to walk some or all of you through draft, and we can do that tomorrow. (We understand that Louis is away and do not presume to intrude on a well-earned holiday.) Nonetheless, if an overview is appealing, please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call me with any questions or issues. We look forward to working with you to resolve our disputes and reach a mutually satisfactory resolution.

Best. Jim

Jim Seery
631-804-2049
jpseeryjr@gmail.com

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT & GENERAL RELEASE

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT & GENERAL RELEASE (this “**Agreement**”) is entered into as of April [REDACTED], 2025 (the “**Agreement Date**”), by and among Highland Capital Management, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“**Highland**”), the Highland Claimant Trust, a Delaware statutory trust governed by the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (the “**Claimant Trust**”), the Highland Litigation Sub-Trust, a Delaware statutory trust governed by the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (the “**Litigation Sub-Trust**”), and the Highland Indemnity Trust, a Delaware statutory trust governed by the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (the “**Indemnity Trust**”, and together with Highland, the Claimant Trust and the Litigation Sub-Trust, the “**Highland Entities**”), on the one hand, and Hunter Mountain Investment Trust, a Delaware statutory trust (“**HMIT**”), Rand Advisors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“**Rand Advisors**”), Rand PE Fund I, LP, a Delaware series limited partnership (“**Rand PE Fund**”), Rand PE Fund Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“**Rand GP**”), Atlas IDF, LP, a Delaware limited partnership (“**Atlas IDF**”), Atlas IDF GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“**Atlas GP**” and together with HMIT, Rand Advisors, Rand PE Fund, Rand GP and Atlas IDF, the “**HMIT Entities**”), on the other hand. The Highland Entities and the HMIT Entities are collectively referred to as the “**Parties**,” and each individually, as a “**Party**”.

DEFINITIONS

“**9019 Motion**” means the motion seeking entry of the Bankruptcy Court Order pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and in accordance with Section 18.

“**Action**” means any action, claim, demand, arbitration, hearing, charge, complaint, investigation, examination, indictment, litigation, suit or other civil, criminal, administrative or investigative proceedings.

“**Affiliate**” means a Person that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, a specified Person as of the date on which, or at any time during the period for which, the determination of affiliation is being made. The term “control” (including, with correlative meanings, the terms “controlled by” and “under common control with”), as applied to any Person, means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of such Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities or other ownership interest, by contract or otherwise.

“**Amended Complaint**” means the *Amended Complaint and Objection to Claims*, filed as docket number 158 in *Kirschner v. Dondero*, Adv. Pro. No. 21-03076-sgj (Bankr. N.D. Tex. May 19, 2022).

“**Bankruptcy Case**” means *In re Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 19-34054-sgj (Bankr. N.D. Tex.) and its related proceedings.

“**Bankruptcy Code**” means title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (as amended).

“Bankruptcy Court” means the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

“Bankruptcy Court Approval Date” means the date on which the Bankruptcy Court Order is issued.

“Bankruptcy Court Order” means an order of the Bankruptcy Court approving the allowance of the HMIT’s Class 10 Interest as provided in this Agreement pursuant to the 9019 Motion.

“Bankruptcy Rules” means the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

“Business Day” means any day other than (i) a Saturday or a Sunday, (ii) a day on which the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or the New York Stock Exchange is closed, or (iii) a day on which banks in the States of Texas are required, or authorized by law, to close.

“Claimant Trust Agreement” means that certain Claimant Trust Agreement of the Claimant Trust (as may have been or may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms thereof from time to time), effective as of August 11, 2021, by and among Highland, as settlor, James P. Seery, Jr., a Claimant Trustee, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, a national banking association, as Delaware trustee.

“Claims” means any claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, breaches of contract, breaches of duty or any relationship, misfeasance, malfeasance, promises, acts, omissions, agreements, liens, losses, costs and expenses (including attorney’s fees and related costs), damages, injuries, suits, actions, and causes of action of whatever kind or nature, whenever and however, arising, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, matured or unmatured, liquidated or unliquidated, contingent or fixed, at law or in equity, statutory or otherwise.

“Class 10” means the class of Claims or Equity Interests described in Article II. Section H.10. of the Plan.

“Class 11” means the class of Claims or Equity Interests described in Article II. Section H.11. of the Plan.

“Committee” means the official committee of unsecured creditors appointed in the Bankruptcy Case.

“Confirmation Order” means that certain *Order Confirming the Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P. (as Modified) and (ii) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 1943], as conformed in accordance with the Fifth Circuit’s rulings.

“Dugaboy Note” means that certain Promissory Note dated May 31, 2017, in the original face amount of \$24,268,621.69, from The Dugaboy Investment Trust, as Maker, and Highland Capital Management, L.P. and The Get Good Non-Exempt Trust, collectively as Payee.

“Final Court Approval Date” means the date on which the Bankruptcy Court Order becomes a Final Order.

“Final Order” means an order or judgment of the Bankruptcy Court, which is in full force and effect, and as to which the time to appeal, petition for certiorari, or move for a new trial, reargument or rehearing has expired and as to which no appeal, petition for certiorari, or other proceedings for a new trial, reargument or rehearing shall then be pending or as to which any right to appeal, petition for certiorari, new trial, reargument, or rehearing shall have been waived in writing in form and substance satisfactory to the Highland Entities, as applicable, or, in the event that an appeal, writ of certiorari, new trial, reargument, or rehearing thereof has been sought, such order of the Bankruptcy Court shall have been determined by the highest court to which such order was appealed, or certiorari, new trial, reargument or rehearing shall have been denied and the time to take any further appeal, petition for certiorari, or move for a new trial, reargument or rehearing shall have expired; provided, however, that the possibility that a motion under Rule 60 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or any analogous rule under the Bankruptcy Rules, may be Filed with respect to such order shall not preclude such order from being a Final Order.

“Gatekeeper” means the gatekeeping provision contained in Article IX. F of the Plan as of August 11, 2021.

“Governmental Authority” means any federal, provincial, state, local or foreign government or political subdivision thereof, court of competent jurisdiction, administrative agency, judicial or arbitral body, or commission or other governmental or regulatory authority or instrumentality.

“Highland Released Parties” means collectively (i) the Highland Entities, (ii) any Affiliate of any Highland Entity and any Person directly or indirectly majority-owned by any Highland Entity or any of their respective Affiliates, (iii) any Person directly or indirectly managed by any Highland Entity or any of their respective Affiliates, whether by contract or otherwise (the entities described in clauses (i)-(iii), collectively, the **“Highland Parties”**), (iv) each of the Highland Parties’ current and former trustees and administrators (including the trustees of any of the Claimant Trust, the Litigation Sub-Trust, or the Indemnity Trust), officers, executives, agents, directors, advisors, advisory representatives, consultants, administrators, managers, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, shareholders, other equityholders, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, Affiliates, successors, designees, and assigns, (v) the current and former members of the Oversight Board of the Claimant Trust in any capacity (including Richard Katz) and their Affiliates, including Farallon Capital Management, LLC, Stonehill Capital Management, LLC, Muck Holdings LLC, and Jessup Holdings LLC, (vi) the Independent Board and its members John Dubel, James P. Seery, Jr., and Russell Nelms, (vii) James P. Seery, Jr., individually and in all capacities for any Highland Released Party, including as Chief Executive Officer of Highland Capital Management, L.P., Claimant Trustee of the Claimant Trust, and the Indemnity Trust Administrator of the Indemnity Trust, (viii) Marc S. Kirschner, individually and as Trustee of the Litigation Sub-Trust, (ix) the Committee and each of its members, (x) the professionals (and their respective firms) (a) retained by Highland or the Committee during the Bankruptcy Case or

which provided services to Highland or the Committee during the Bankruptcy Case or (b) retained by any Highland Released Party on or after August 11, 2021, (xi) any Person indemnified by any Highland Party (the Persons described in clauses (i)-(xi), collectively, the “**Highland Covered Parties**”), and (xii) each Highland Covered Party’s current and former officers, executives, agents, directors, advisors, consultants, administrators, managers, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, shareholders, other equityholders, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, Affiliates, successors, designees, and assigns, if not otherwise included in the defined term “Highland Covered Parties;” provided, however, and for the avoidance of doubt, and without in any way limiting the scope of the foregoing, “Highland Covered Parties” shall include Highland CLO Funding, Ltd., Highland HCF Advisor, Ltd., Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund, L.P., Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund GP, L.P., Highland Multi Strategy Credit GP, LLC, Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund, Ltd., Highland Select Equity Master Fund, L.P., Highland Select Equity Fund GP, L.P., Highland Select Equity Fund, L.P., Highland Restoration Capital Partners Master, L.P., Highland Restoration Capital Partners GP, LLC, Highland Restoration Capital Partners, L.P., Highland Restoration Capital Partners Offshore, L.P., Highland Offshore Director, LLC, Acis CLO Management, LLC, Neutra, Ltd., Pollack, Ltd., Acis CLO Management Holdings, L.P., Acis CLO Management Intermediate Holdings I, LLC, Acis CLO Management Intermediate Holdings II, LLC, Acis CLO Assets Holdings Limited, CHG Houston Holdings, LLC, Penant Management, L.P., Penant Management GP, LLC, Gunwale, LLC, HE Capital, LLC, Gleneagles CLO, Ltd., Aberdeen Loan Funding, Ltd. Highland Argentina Regional Opportunity Fund GP, LLC, Highland Argentina Regional Opportunity Fund, L.P., Highland Argentina Regional Opportunity Fund, Ltd., Highland Argentina Regional Opportunity Master Fund, L.P., Highland Latin America Consulting, Ltd., Highland Capital Management Korea Limited, Highland Capital Management Latin America, L.P., Highland Latin America GP, Ltd., Highland Latin America LP, Ltd., Highland Offshore Partners, L.P. (Diversified), Brentwood CLO, Ltd., Eastland CLO, Ltd., Bristol Bay Funding Ltd., Jasper CLO Ltd., Highland Legacy Limited, Grayson CLO, Ltd., Greenbriar CLO, Ltd., Highland Loan Funding V Ltd., Highland Park CDO I, Ltd., Liberty CLO, Ltd., Valhalla CLO, Ltd., Stratford CLO Ltd., Southfork CLO, Ltd., Pam Capital Funding, L.P., Stonebridge-Highland Healthcare Private Equity Fund, Pamco Cayman Ltd., Red River CLO, Ltd., Rockwall CDO II Ltd., Rockwall CDO, Ltd., Westchester CLO, Ltd. Longhorn Credit Funding, LLC, PensionDanmark Pensionsforsikringsaktieselskab, Highland Dynamic Income Master Fund L.P., Highland Dynamic Income Fund GP, LLC, Highland Dynamic Income Fund, L.P., Highland Dynamic Income Fund, Ltd., Highland JHT Holdings, LLC, Highland Prometheus Master Fund, L.P., Highland Prometheus Feeder Fund I, L.P., Highland Prometheus Feeder Fund II, L.P., Highland Sunbridge GP, LLC, Trussway Holdings, LLC, Trussway Industries, LLC, TW Company, Inc., T-Way Investments, LLC, SSP Holdings, LLC, Highland Flexible Income UCITS Fund, and Acis CLO 2017-7, Ltd. *Notwithstanding the forgoing or anything herein to the contrary*, none of “Highland Released Parties”, “Highland Parties”, nor “Highland Covered Parties” shall include James Dondero, Scott Ellington, Isaac Leventon, or any Person directly or indirectly owned as of the date hereof (in whole or in part) by, and/or Affiliated as of the date hereof with, any of Mr. Dondero, Mr. Ellington, or Mr. Leventon in any manner and none of such Persons are released from any Claim by any Person in connection with this Agreement.

“HMIT Class 10 Interest” means the unvested, contingent Class 10 interest in the Claimant Trust (a) to be allowed on account of HMIT’s pre-petition equity interest in Highland, and (b) subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan, the Plan Documents, the Claimant Trust Agreement, this Agreement, and applicable law.

“HMIT Note” means that certain Secured Promissory Note dated December 21, 2015, in the original face amount of \$63,000,000 from HMIT, as maker, and Highland, as payee.

“HMIT Note Claims” means any Claim related to, in connection with or arising out of the HMIT Note.

“HMIT Released Parties” means collectively (i) the HMIT Entities, (ii) any Affiliate of any HMIT Entity and any Person directly or indirectly majority owned by any HMIT Entity or any of their respective Affiliates, (iii) any Person directly or indirectly managed by any HMIT Entity or any of their respective Affiliates, whether by contract or otherwise (the entities described in clauses (i) – (iii), collectively, the **“HMIT Parties”**), (iv) each of the HMIT Parties’ current and former trustees, administrators, officer, executives, agents, directors, advisors, consultants, manager, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, shareholders, other equityholders, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, Affiliates, successors, designees, and assigns (v) the professionals (and their respective firms (a) retained by any HMIT Party during the Bankruptcy Case or which provided services to any HMIT Party during the Bankruptcy Case or (b) retained by any HMIT Released Party on or after August 11, 2021, (vi) any Person indemnified by any HMIT Party (the Persons described in clauses (i) – (vi), collectively, the **“HMIT Covered Parties”**), and (vii) each HMIT Covered Party’s current and former officers, executives, agents, directors, advisors, consultants, administrators, managers, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, shareholders, other equityholders, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, Affiliates, successors, designees, and assigns, if not otherwise included in the defined term “HMIT Covered Parties.” *Notwithstanding the foregoing*, none of “HMIT Released Parties”, “HMIT Parties”, nor “HMIT Covered Parties” shall include James Dondero, Scott Ellington, Isaac Leventon, or any Person directly or indirectly owned as of the date hereof (in whole or in part) by, and/or Affiliated as of the date hereof with, any of Mr. Dondero, Mr. Ellington, or Mr. Leventon in any manner, and none of such Persons are released from any Claims by any Person in connection with this Agreement.

“Indemnity Trust Administrator” has the meaning given to it in the Indemnity Trust Agreement.

“Indemnity Trust Agreement” means that certain *Second Amended and Restated Indemnity Trust Agreement of the Indemnity Trust* (as may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms thereof from time to time), effective as of [April 28], 2025, by and among the Claimant Trust, as grantor, James P. Seery, Jr., as indemnity trust administrator, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, a national banking association, as indemnity trustee and Delaware trustee.

“Indemnity Trust Assets” has the meaning set forth in the Indemnity Trust Agreement.

“**Independent Board**” means the independent board appointed by the Bankruptcy Court on January 9, 2020, pursuant to that certain *Order Approving Settlement with Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Regarding Governance of the Debtor and Procedures for Operations in the Ordinary Course* [Docket No. 339].

“**Kirschner Claims**” means all Claims and causes of action other than the HMIT Note Claims that were asserted or could have been asserted by the Litigation Trustee of the Litigation Sub-Trust, in the Amended Complaint.

“**Liability**” means any liability, debt, obligation, loss, damage, claim, cost or expense (including costs of investigation and defense and attorney’s fees, costs and expenses), in each case, whether direct or indirect, whether accrued or contingent, whether or not involving a third-party claim, and including incidental and consequential damages and diminution of value.

“**Litigation Protections**” means, individually and collectively, the rights, duties, and obligations set forth in Section 1 and Sections 9 - 16.

“**Litigation Sub-Trust**” means the Highland Litigation Sub-Trust, a Delaware statutory trust governed by the Delaware Statutory Trust Act.

“**Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement**” means that certain Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement of the Litigation Sub-Trust (as may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms thereof from time to time), effective as of August 16, 2021, by and among James P. Seery, Jr., as Claimant Trustee of the Claimant Trust, Wilmington Trust, National Association, a national banking association, as Delaware Trustee, and the Litigation Trustee.

“**Litigation Trustee**” means Marc S. Kirschner, as Litigation Trustee of the Litigation Sub-Trust.

“**LPA**” means that certain *Sixth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Highland Capital Management, L.P.* (as may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms thereof from time to time), dated as of October 4, 2021.

“**Original Plan**” means that certain *Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P. (as Modified)* attached as Exhibit A to the *Order (A) Confirming the Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P. (as modified) and (B) Granting Related Relief*, filed at Docket No. 1943 on the Bankruptcy Court’s docket.

“**Oversight Board**” means the oversight board of the Highland Claimant Trust.

“**Pending Litigation**” means (i) *Hunter Mountain Investment Trust v. Highland Cap. Mgmt., L.P.*, Case No. 3:23-cv-02071-E (N.D. Tex.), on remand to the Bankruptcy Court (including *Hunter Mountain Investment Trust’s Emergency Motion for Leave to File Adversary Proceeding* filed at Bankruptcy Court Docket No. 3699 and all proceedings, decisions, and orders relating there); (ii) *Dugaboy Investment Trust v. Highland Cap. Mgmt., L.P.*, 3:24-cv-

01531-X (N.D. Tex.) (only as to HMIT), and (iii) *Hunter Mountain Investment Trust v. Highland Cap. Mgmt., L.P.*, Case No. 3:24-cv-01786-L (N.D. Tex.).

“Permitted Investments” has the meaning set forth in the Indemnity Trust Agreement.

“Person” means any natural person, partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, joint stock company, trust, estate, joint venture, unincorporated organization or Governmental Authority.

“Plan” means that certain *Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P. (as Modified)* as conformed in accordance with the Fifth Circuit’s rulings.

“Plan Documents” has the meaning given to it in the Plan.

“Plan Protections” means, collectively, the provisions of the Plan contained in Article IX thereof.

“Pro Rata” means the proportion that (a) the allowed amount of a particular Claim or Equity Interest in Class 10 bears to (b) the aggregate allowed amount of all Claims or Equity Interests in Class 10.

“Threats” means any threats, demands, complaints, petitions for pre-suit discovery, suits, litigations, arbitrations, actual or threatened restraining orders or injunctions, or similar actions of any kind in any forum against any Trust Indemnified Parties or Indemnified Party (both as defined in the Indemnity Trust Agreement).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, as of the Petition Date, HMIT held Class B and Class C Limited Partnerships Interests in Highland;

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2015, HMIT entered into the HMIT Note with Highland, which had a total outstanding principal balance of Fifty-Seven Million Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Forty and 95/100 Dollars (\$57,690,640.95) as of the Petition Date (the **“HMIT Note Balance”**);

WHEREAS, HMIT’s Class B and Class C Limited Partnership Interests in Highland were extinguished on August 11, 2021, in accordance with the Plan;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the LPA, HMIT’s capital account balance at Highland on account of its Class B and Class C Limited Partnership Interests on the Petition Date was Three Hundred Ninety-Four Million Six Hundred Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-One and 53/100 Dollars (\$394,630,871.53) (the **“HMIT Capital Account Balance”**);

WHEREAS, some or all of the HMIT Entities have asserted certain Claims against certain Highland Entities, including those asserted in the Pending Litigation;

WHEREAS, some or all of the Highland Entities have asserted certain Claims against certain HMIT Entities, including the HMIT Note Claims;

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to terminate, extinguish, and release any and all rights, duties, obligations and Claims that (a) any of the Highland Released Parties owed or have, or may have owed or have, to or with respect to any of the HMIT Released Parties, and (b) any of the HMIT Released Parties owed or have, or may have owed or have, to or with respect to any of the Highland Released Parties (collectively, the “**Rights and Obligations**”);

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that the Litigation Protections are intended to enact a permanent cessation of all litigation concerning or related to the Highland Released Parties through and including the Agreement Date; and

WHEREAS, the Parties, individually and collectively, wish to (a) resolve all disputes between and/or among any of the Highland Entities, on the one hand, and any of the HMIT Entities, on the other hand, including those asserted in the Pending Litigation, (b) fix and allow HMIT’s Class 10 Interest at the amount and on the terms provided herein; and (c) terminate, extinguish, and release all Rights and Obligations on the terms provided herein.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Dismissal of Pending Litigation With Prejudice. Within three (3) Business Days after the Agreement Date, the HMIT Entities shall take all steps necessary (at their own cost) to dismiss the Pending Litigation with prejudice.

2. Dismissal of Certain Defendants from the Amended Complaint.

(a) Within three (3) Business Days after the Effective Date, the Litigation Trustee shall take all steps necessary (at its own cost) to dismiss, with prejudice, HMIT and Rand PE Fund from Counts I, II, and III of the Amended Complaint. For the avoidance of doubt, Counts I, II, and III constitute all Kirschner Claims that are not HMIT Note Claims, and such dismissal shall not affect or impair any HMIT Note Claims or any liability or obligation of HMIT with respect to the HMIT Note, if any.

(b) Within three (3) Business Days after the Final Court Approval Date, the Litigation Sub-Trust shall take all steps necessary (at its own cost) to dismiss, with prejudice, HMIT and Rand PE from Count XXIV of the Amended Complaint, which constitutes all HMIT Note Claims against HMIT and Rand PE.

3. Cash Payment to HMIT. In consideration for the dismissal of the Pending Litigation, within three (3) Business Days following the Agreement Date, Highland shall pay HMIT a one-time, lump sum of [Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (US\$500,000.00)] (the “**Payment**”) by wire transfer:

[wire instructions]

4. HMIT Class 10 Interest.

(a) Subject to entry of the Bankruptcy Court Order, and the terms of this Agreement, the HMIT Class 10 Interest shall be deemed allowed in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Million Nine Hundred Forty Thousand Two Hundred Thirty and 58/100 Dollars (US\$336,940,230.58), which amount represents the HMIT Capital Account Balance, less the HMIT Note Balance.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Plan or the Claimant Trust Agreement, as an integral part of this Agreement to consent to the allowance of the HMIT Class 10 Interest and the other considerations in this Agreement, HMIT shall not be deemed, and no holder of the HMIT Class 10 Interest shall be, a Claimant Trust Beneficiary or a “Beneficiary” under the Claimant Trust Agreement, and the Highland Released Parties, individually and collectively, shall owe no duty to any HMIT Releasor (whether contractual, fiduciary, equitable, statutory or otherwise), including with respect to the HMIT Class 10 Interest, in each case, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement. Furthermore, without limiting the foregoing and for the avoidance of doubt, the contractual right of the holder of the HMIT Class 10 Interest to receive or recover any payments or Indemnity Trust Assets from the Indemnity Trust as set forth in this Agreement or the Indemnity Trust Agreement does not make any HMIT Releasor or any other Person a beneficiary of the Indemnity Trust or under the Indemnity Trust Agreement.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Plan, the Claimant Trust Agreement or the Indemnity Trust Agreement, in no event shall HMIT sell, transfer, assign, pledge, hypothecate, participate or otherwise dispose of the HMIT Class 10 Interest or any rights (including any right to payment) with respect thereto.

(d) For the avoidance of doubt, the HMIT Class 10 Interest is and shall remain senior to the not yet allowed, unvested contingent Class 11 Claims of Equity Interests as provided for in the Plan, the Plan Documents, and the Claimant Trust Agreement.

5. Initial Interim Cash Distributions on the Allowed Class 10 Interests.

(a) Within ten (10) Business Days of the Final Court Approval Date, the Indemnity Trust shall distribute (the date on which such distribution is made, the “**Initial Interim Distribution Date**”) Pro Rata to the Holders of allowed Class 10 Claims or Equity Interests: (i) cash in the aggregate amount of [Ten Million Dollars (US\$10,000,000.00)] (the “**Initial Interim Cash Distribution Amount**”); and (ii) cash in the aggregate amount of all principal and interest payments paid on the Dugaboy Note and actually received by Highland or the Indemnity Trust from and after the Bankruptcy Court Approval Date (the “**Initial Interim Dugaboy Distribution Amount**”).

(b) Upon the Bankruptcy Court Approval Date, the Indemnity Trust shall establish a balance sheet reserve in respect of the Initial Interim Cash Distribution Amount and the Initial Interim Dugaboy Distribution Amount (if and when received), which reserve will be held solely in cash or Permitted Investments and otherwise on the same terms as other Indemnity

Trust Assets pursuant to the Indemnity Trust Agreement pending distribution in accordance with Section 5(a).

6. Subsequent Distribution(s) on the Allowed Class 10 Interests.

(a) On the later of the Final Court Approval Date and April 1, 2028, the Indemnity Trust shall distribute (such distribution, collectively, the “**Subsequent Distribution**”, and the date on which such Subsequent Distribution is made, the “**Subsequent Distribution Date**”) Pro Rata to the Holders of allowed Class 10 Claims or Equity Interests: (i) cash in the aggregate amount of **Five Million Dollars (US\$5,000,000.00)**; and (ii)(x)(1) if HMIT elects in writing that it desires for the Indemnity Trust to sell the Dugaboy Note, the net proceeds, if any, actually received by the Indemnity Trust from such sale, or (2) if HMIT instead elects that it desires to receive the Dugaboy Note in kind, the Dugaboy Note in kind, plus (y) cash in the aggregate amount of all principal and interest payments actually received on the Dugaboy Note by the Indemnity Trust from and after the Initial Interim Distribution Date (the amount pursuant to subclause (y), the “**Subsequent Dugaboy P+I Amount**”). If the Dugaboy Note is distributed in kind, HMIT will engage an independent valuation service provider to value the Dugaboy Note for purposes of determining the magnitude of reduction to the outstanding allowed Class 10 Interests on account of such in-kind distribution. The HMIT Entities acknowledge and agree that none of the Highland Entities are representing or warranting that the Dugaboy Note can or will be sold or the price, if any, received for the Dugaboy Note and further acknowledge and agree that any such purchase price may be de minimis.

(b) Upon the Initial Interim Distribution Date, the Indemnity Trust shall establish a balance sheet reserve in respect of the cash portion of the Subsequent Dugaboy P+I Amount, which will be held solely in cash or Permitted Investments and otherwise on the same terms as other Indemnity Trust Assets pursuant to the Indemnity Trust Agreement pending distribution in accordance with Section 6(a).

(c) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the obligations of the Indemnity Trust to make the Subsequent Distribution, including any Cash, the Dugaboy Note, or the Subsequent Dugaboy P+I Amount, is subject in all respects to (i) there being no Threats and (ii) a determination in accordance with Article VIII, Section 8.1(c) of the Indemnity Trust Agreement that the Indemnity Trust Assets comprising such distributions are not reasonably necessary to satisfy current or potential Indemnification Obligations (as defined in the Indemnity Trust Agreement) to all persons who are or might become Beneficiaries (as defined in the Indemnity Trust Agreement).

7. Final Distribution on the Allowed Class 10 Interests.

(a) On the later of the Final Court Approval Date and April 1, 2029, the Indemnity Trust will distribute all excess remaining Indemnity Trust Assets in accordance with Article VIII of the Indemnity Trust Agreement; provided, however, that the obligation of the Indemnity Trust to make any such distributions and/or dissolve and wind up the affairs of the Indemnity Trust is subject in all respects to (i) there being no Threats and (ii) a determination in accordance with Article VIII of the Indemnity Trust Agreement that (1) a Final Order(s) (as

defined in the Indemnity Trust Agreement) has been entered resolving all litigation, claims or proceedings in any forum of any kind which could give rise to Indemnity Obligations (as defined in the Indemnity Trust Agreement) and payment in full of all such Indemnity Obligations and (2) all applicable statutes of limitations and any applicable tolling of such statutes of limitation have expired.

(b) The Indemnity Trust agrees to not use Indemnity Trust Assets to fund the operating expenses of Highland.

(c) Following the Bankruptcy Court Approval Date, at the request of Mark Patrick, solely in his capacity, and to the extent he remains, as administrator of HMIT, but not more often than quarterly, Highland and the Indemnity Trust Administrator agree to review (i) the status of their respective assets, (ii) the balance of cash held, (iii) the status of any claims made for indemnification and any resolutions thereof, (iv) the status of any litigation, and (v) forecasted operating expenses with Mr. Patrick, and will each work in good faith to reduce operating expenses where reasonably practicable; provided, however, that all such reporting shall be subject to Mr. Patrick's agreement to maintain confidentiality with respect to any non-public information.

8. Transfer Kirschner Claims; Dismissal of HMIT Note Claims.

(a) In consideration of the dismissal of the Pending Litigation and the releases provided herein, within ten (10) Business Days of the Agreement Date, but after the dismissal provided for in Section 2, and solely to the extent permitted by the Plan, the Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement and applicable law, the Litigation Sub-Trust shall execute an assignment in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit []** in favor of the HMIT Entities transferring all of the Litigation Sub-Trust's right, title, and interest in and to the Kirschner Claims (which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not include any HMIT Note Claims) (the "**Kirschner Transfer**").¹ Each HMIT Entity acknowledges and agrees that none of the Highland Entities will have any duty or obligation to assist the HMIT Entities in any way with respect to the Kirschner Claims, including the prosecution thereof.

(b) THE HMIT ENTITIES SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT THE LITIGATION SUB-TRUST IS TRANSFERRING THE KIRSCHNER CLAIMS ON AN "AS IS AND WITH ALL FAULTS" BASIS AND THAT THE HMIT ENTITIES ARE NOT RELYING ON ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, FROM THE HIGHLAND ENTITIES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AS TO ANY MATTERS CONCERNING THE KIRSCHNER CLAIMS AND AMENDED COMPLAINT, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO THE ENFORCEABILITY, TRANSFERABILITY, VIABILITY, STRENGTH, OR VALUE OF ANY OF THE KIRSCHNER CLAIMS OR THE AMENDED COMPLAINT. The HMIT Entities hereby specifically acknowledge that they have carefully reviewed this Section and have had the opportunity to discuss its import with legal counsel and that the provisions of this Section are a material part of this Agreement. Thus, if for any reason HMIT is precluded from or is

¹ NTD: HMIT Claim to be dismissed without prejudice.

otherwise unable to prosecute all or any of the Kirschner Claims, (i) the HMIT Releasors shall have no recourse against the Highland Released Parties whatsoever and shall not be entitled to compensation of any kind, it being agreed that the HMIT Entities are otherwise receiving adequate consideration for the duties and obligations they are undertaking pursuant to this Agreement and (ii) there will be no effect whatsoever on the validity and enforceability of this Agreement or any of the other transactions contemplated hereby.

(c) As promptly as reasonably practicable following the Effective Date, the Highland Entities shall provide to the HMIT Entities electronic copies of written discovery requests and responses thereto, and documents produced in discovery in respect of the Kirschner Claims and the Amended Complaint. The Highland Entities will not provide any other documents regarding the Kirschner Claims including any attorney-client communications and any documents subject to the attorney work-product doctrine or similar privileges or immunities concerning the Kirschner Claims (collectively, the “**Kirschner Privileges**”), it being understood and agreed that the Highland Entities are retaining, and not transferring or waiving, the Kirschner Privileges.

(d) Each Party acknowledges and agrees that if (a) the Kirschner Transfer is found or deemed to be impermissible or invalid, for any reason, or (b) the Final Court Approval Date does not occur, the Kirschner Claims and Amended Complaint will revert to, and remain an asset of, the Litigation Sub-Trust.

9. General Release By The HMIT Entities. On the Agreement Date, and to the maximum extent permitted by law, each of the HMIT Entities, on behalf of itself and each of its respective Affiliates (including Affiliated and/or managed funds, accounts and other investment vehicles) and its and their respective current and former advisors, consultants, administrators, trustees, directors, officers, managers, executives, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, direct and indirect shareholders and other equity holders, agents, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, successors, predecessors, designees, and assigns (whether by operation of law or otherwise) (collectively with the HMIT Entities, the “**HMIT Releasors**”) hereby forever, finally, fully, unconditionally, and completely releases, relieves, acquits, discharges, remises, and exonerates each Highland Released Party from, and waives and relinquishes, any and all Claims, which the HMIT Releasors, or any Person claiming through, under, or on behalf of any of the HMIT Releasors, ever had, now has, or hereafter can, shall, or may have against any of the Highland Released Parties by reason of, arising from, relating to, or in connection with, any fact, matter, or transaction that occurred prior to the Agreement Date, including any fact, matter, transaction, or occurrence in connection with, relating to, or with respect to the Bankruptcy Case, the management or operation of any of the Highland Released Parties, or the Highland Released Parties’ property and including any defense, affirmative defenses, and right to setoff arising out of, or otherwise related to, any of the foregoing (collectively, the “**HMIT Entity Released Claims**”).

10. General Release By The Highland Entities.

(a) On the Agreement Date, and to the maximum extent permitted by law, each of the Highland Entities, on behalf of itself and each of its respective Affiliates (including Affiliated and/or managed funds, accounts and other investment vehicles) and its or their respective current and former advisors, consultants, administrators, trustees, directors, officers, managers, executives, members, partners (including limited and general partners), employees, beneficiaries, direct and indirect shareholders and other equity holders, agents, participants, direct and indirect subsidiaries and parents, successors, predecessors, designees, and assigns (whether by operation of law or otherwise)(collectively with the Highland Entities, the “**Highland Releasors**”) hereby forever, finally, fully, unconditionally, and completely releases, relieves, acquits, discharges, remises, and exonerates each HMIT Released Party from, and waives and relinquishes, any and all Claims, excepting any HMIT Note Claims, which the Highland Releasors, or any Person claiming through, under, or on behalf of any of the Highland Releasors, ever had, now has, or hereafter can, shall, or may have against any of the HMIT Released Parties by reason of, arising from, relating to, or in connection with, any fact, matter, or transaction that occurred prior to the Agreement Date, including any fact, matter, transaction, or occurrence in connection with, relating to, or with respect to the Bankruptcy Case, the management or operation of any of the HMIT Released Parties, or the HMIT Released Parties’ property and including any defense, affirmative defenses, and right to setoff arising out of, or otherwise related to, any of the foregoing (collectively, the “**Initial Highland Released Claims**”). For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the HMIT Note Claims shall not be released until Final Court Approval Date, at which time the HMIT Note will be applied to calculate the allowed HMIT Class 10 Interest set forth in Section 4 and the balance of the HMIT Note and any HMIT Note Claims shall be released pursuant to Section 10(b).

(b) Upon the Final Court Approval Date, and to the maximum extent permitted by law, each of the Highland Releasors hereby forever, finally, fully, unconditionally, and completely releases, relieves, acquits, discharges, remises, and exonerates each HMIT Released Party from, and waives and relinquishes, the HMIT Note Claims (the “**Subsequent Highland Released Claims**” and together with the Initial Highland Released Claims, the “**Highland Entity Released Claims**” and together with the HMIT Entity Released Claims, the “**Released Claims**”).

11. Further Provisions Concerning The General Releases.

(a) **FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THE FOREGOING RELEASES ARE INTENDED TO BE GENERAL AND INCLUDE A RELEASE OF ALL RELEASED CLAIMS, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, SUSPECTED OR UNSUSPECTED, ARISING OR EXISTING FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME THROUGH AND INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT DATE.**

(b) To the maximum extent permitted by law, each of the HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, waives the benefit of any statute or other principle of law or

equity that limits the applicability of a release with respect to Claims that the releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor at the time of executing the release.

(c) Without limiting the scope of the foregoing waiver, in connection with the foregoing release, each of the HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on its own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, waives the benefits of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code (to the extent, if any, that Section 1542 might apply to the foregoing release), which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Each of the HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, hereby agrees that the provisions of Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California and all similar federal or state law, rights, rules or legal principles, legal or equitable, in each case solely to the extent such provisions apply, **ARE HEREBY KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY WAIVED AND RELINQUISHED BY EACH OF THE HMIT ENTITIES AND THE HIGHLAND ENTITIES, ON THEIR OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE OTHER HMIT RELEASORS AND HIGHLAND RELEASORS, RESPECTIVELY**, in each and every capacity, to the full extent that such rights and benefits pertaining to the matters released herein may be waived, and each of the HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, hereby agrees and acknowledges that this waiver and relinquishment is an essential term of this Agreement, without which the consideration provided would not have been given.

In connection with such waiver and relinquishment, each of the HMIT Entities and Highland Entities acknowledges that it is aware that it may hereafter discover Claims presently unknown or unsuspected, or facts in addition to or different from those which it now knows or believes to be true, with respect to the matters released herein. Nevertheless, it is the intent of each of the HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on its own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, in executing this Agreement fully, finally, and forever to settle and release all such matters, and all Claims related thereto, which exist, may exist or might have existed (whether or not previously or currently asserted in any action) which are the subject to the releases granted above.

(d) As an integral component of this Agreement, and notwithstanding the Parties' intent set forth in the preamble hereto and the general nature of the releases in Sections 9 and 10, should:

(i) any HMIT Releasor contend or assert that any Claim of any kind whatsoever held by any HMIT Releasor against any Highland Released Party survives this

Agreement and is in any way related to or arising from or in connection with any HMIT Entity Released Claim (such claim or cause of action, a “**HMIT Alleged Claim**”), such HMIT Releasor will be deemed to have irrevocably, fully, and finally assigned such HMIT Alleged Claim to the Highland Entities and the Highland Entities will be deemed to have forever, finally, full, unconditionally, and irrevocably, and completely released such HMIT Alleged Claim.

(ii) any Highland Releasor contend or assert that any Claim of any kind whatsoever held by any Highland Releasor against any HMIT Released Party survives this Agreement and is in any way related to or arising from or in connection with any Highland Entity Released Claim (such claim or cause of action, a “**Highland Alleged Claim**”), such Highland Releasor will be deemed to have irrevocably, fully, and finally assigned such Highland Alleged Claim to the HMIT Entities and the HMIT Entities will be deemed to have forever, finally, full, unconditionally, and irrevocably, and completely released such Highland Alleged Claim.

12. Covenant Not To Sue; Limitation on Standing. Upon the Agreement Date:

(a) Each of the HMIT Releasors covenants and agrees that it will not institute or prosecute any Action, in law, in equity or otherwise, against any of the Highland Released Parties, to recover, enforce, or collect any HMIT Entity Released Claim and will not (i) induce, encourage or direct any other Person to do so or (ii) act in concert with or assist (financially or otherwise) any other Person in doing so.

(b) Each of the Highland Releasors covenants and agrees that it will not institute or prosecute any Action, in law, in equity or otherwise, against any of the HMIT Released Parties, to recover, enforce, or collect any Highland Entity Released Claim and will not (i) induce, encourage or direct any other Person to do so or (ii) act in concert with or assist (financially or otherwise) any other Person in doing so.

(c) For the avoidance of doubt, this Agreement shall not operate to give any HMIT Entity standing for any purpose in connection with the Bankruptcy Case (or in connection with any appeal arising from any order entered by the Bankruptcy Court), except for the limited purpose of seeking Court approval of this Agreement (including with respect to any appeal concerning any order entered granting or denying such approval), and except for the limited purpose of enforcing this Agreement, no HMIT Entity shall commence any Action in connection with the HMIT Class 10 Interest.

13. Representations and Warranties.

(a) Each of the HMIT Entities hereby represents and warrants that every HMIT Entity Released Claim has not heretofore been assigned or encumbered and is not the subject of a transfer (as such term is defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(54)), by any HMIT Releasor.

(b) The HMIT Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors, acknowledge and agree that each Plan Provision is lawful, effective, and binding on the HMIT Releasors. The HMIT Entities further agree, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors, that the HMIT Releasors will never, in any way, challenge or seek to

modify, nullify, vacate, or revoke, or induce, encourage or direct any other Person to do so or act in concert with or assist (financially or otherwise) any other Person in doing so the Confirmation Order, the Plan, the Plan Protections, or any Plan Document, including the Claimant Trust Agreement, the LPA, the Indemnity Trust Agreement or the Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement, in the Bankruptcy Court, in any other state or federal court, in any other forum or tribunal, or otherwise, including administrative or regulatory tribunals and foreign courts.

(c) Each of the Highland Entities hereby represents and warrants that every Highland Entity Released Claim has not heretofore been assigned or encumbered and is not the subject of a transfer (as such term is defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(54)), by any Highland Releasor.

(d) Each Party severally represents and warrants as to itself only that: (i) it has taken all necessary action to authorize and approve the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement; (ii) such Party has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement; and (iii) this Agreement constitutes a valid, legal and binding obligation of such Party, and is enforceable subject to its terms. Each individual signatory hereto individually warrants and represents to all Parties hereto that such individual has full power and authority to act on behalf of and bind the Party for which he or she has executed this Agreement; provided, however that no signatory shall otherwise provide any warranty or representation or otherwise be a party to this Agreement on an individual basis.

14. No Continuing Rights, Duties or Obligations. Except for the rights, duties, and obligations expressly set forth in this Agreement, all Rights and Obligations that existed or may have existed shall be deemed terminated, extinguished, and released upon the Agreement Date. For the avoidance of doubt, from and after the Agreement Date, (a) the Highland Released Parties, individually and collectively, shall owe no duty, past or present, including with respect to the Kirchner Claims, to the HMIT Releasors, individually and collectively, whether contractual, fiduciary, equitable, statutory or otherwise, except as arising out of this Agreement, and (b) the HMIT Released Parties, individually and collectively, shall owe no duty to the Highland Releasors, individually and collectively, whether contractual, fiduciary, equitable, statutory or otherwise, except as arising out of this Agreement.

15. Gatekeeper Standard.

(a) The HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, acknowledge and agree that, notwithstanding the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P. v. Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, No. 23-10534 (5th Cir. Mar. 18, 2025), the "Gatekeeper" provisions contained in Highland's Original Plan is forever binding on each of the HMIT Entities and for a claim or cause of action to be "colorable" for purposes of the Gatekeeper, it must be found by final order of the Bankruptcy Court (the "**Gatekeeper Court**"), which order shall be subject to appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction, to have satisfied the "Gatekeeper Colorability Test" as such term is defined in *In re Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 2104 at *124-36 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Aug. 24, 2023).

(b) The HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, acknowledge and agree that compliance with the Gatekeeper requires (i) a motion seeking leave to sue an Exculpated Party (as that term is defined in Highland's original Plan) and a finding that the litigant's claims and causes of action are "colorable" attaching a complaint setting forth the basis for such claims or causes of action and (ii), in the Gatekeeper Court's sole discretion, an evidentiary hearing (during which the Gatekeeper Court may, among other things, hear testimony and assess the credibility of any witness(es)) to determine whether a proposed claim or cause of action is "colorable."

(c) The HMIT Entities and the Highland Entities, on their own behalf and on behalf of the other HMIT Releasors and Highland Releasors, respectively, further acknowledge and agree that the moving party under the Gatekeeper has the burden of satisfying the "Gatekeeper Colorability Test."

16. Indemnification.

(a) Without in any manner limiting the available remedies for any breach of this Agreement, the HMIT Entities, severally but not jointly, agree to indemnify, defend, and hold the Highland Released Parties harmless from and against any and all Liability, that may arise or result from or on account of, or that are otherwise related or attributable to (x) any breach of this Agreement or of any representation or warranty contained in the Agreement, including the representations and warranties of any HMIT Entity set forth in Section 13 or (y) any Actions brought or prosecuted by or on behalf of, any HMIT Releasor or that are induced, encouraged, assisted or directed by any HMIT Releasor or brought or prosecuted in concert with any HMIT Releasor against any Highland Released Party with respect to or related to any HMIT Entity Released Claims. Without limiting the scope of the foregoing in any manner, any HMIT Entity that breaches Section 12 shall be liable to the Highland Released Party against whom the applicable Action has been brought or prosecuted in violation of Section 12 for the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by such Highland Released Party in defending against or otherwise responding to such Action. Each HMIT Entity acknowledges and agrees that the HMIT Entities are and shall be severally but not jointly liable for any Liability arising from or out of any breach of this Agreement or of any representation or warranty set forth in this Agreement.

(b) Without in any manner limiting the available remedies for any breach of this Agreement, the Highland Entities, severally but not jointly, agree to indemnify, defend, and hold the HMIT Released Parties harmless from and against any and all Liability, that may arise or result from or on account of, or that are otherwise related or attributable to (x) any breach of this Agreement or of any representation or warranty contained in the Agreement, including the representations and warranties of any Highland Entity set forth in Section 13 or (y) any suits, proceedings, or other actions brought or prosecuted by or on behalf of, any Highland Releasor or that are induced, encouraged, assisted or directed by any Highland Releasor or brought or prosecuted in concert with any Highland Releasor against any HMIT Released Party with respect to or related to any Highland Entity Released Claims. Without in any manner limiting the scope of the foregoing, any Highland Entity that breaches Section 12 shall be liable to the HMIT

Released Party against whom the applicable Action has been brought or prosecuted in violation of Section 12 for the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by such HMIT Released Party in defending against or otherwise responding to such Action. Each Highland Entity acknowledges and agrees that the Highland Entities are and shall be severally but not jointly liable for any Liability arising from or out of any breach of this Agreement or of any representation or warranty set forth in this Agreement.

17. Execution. This Agreement may be executed by the exchange of signatures by facsimile or by PDF attachment to an email transmittal and in counterparts, and if so executed, shall be fully executed when a counterpart has been executed and delivered by all Parties hereto through counsel. All counterparts taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement and shall be fully enforceable as such.

18. Bankruptcy Court Order. The allowance of the allowed HMIT Class 10 Interest pursuant to Section 4 is subject to the entry of the Bankruptcy Court Order. To that end, the Highland Entities shall file the 9019 Motion no later than five (5) Business Days after the Agreement Date. Each Party shall, and shall cause each of their respective Affiliates to, undertake any and all actions in compliance with applicable law to obtain the Bankruptcy Court Order as promptly as practicable, and without limiting the foregoing, if an Action is threatened or instituted by any Person opposing the 9019 Motion or otherwise challenging the validity or legality, or seeking to restrain the consummation, of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or the Bankruptcy Court Order, each Party shall, and shall cause its respective Affiliates to, use their commercially reasonable best efforts to avoid, resist, resolve or, if necessary, and defend to effectuate this Agreement and consummate the transactions hereby. If the 9019 Motion is not approved by entry of the Bankruptcy Court Order or if the Bankruptcy Court Approval is precluded from becoming a Final Order, (a) there will be no affect on, adjustment to, or impairment of, in any way, the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Agreement, and the other transactions contemplated hereby, all of which shall remain in full force and effect and (b) each Party shall, and shall cause its respective Affiliates to, use their best efforts to seek the allowance of the HMIT Class 10 Interest in a substantially similar amount and on substantially similar terms as set forth in Section 4 to the fullest extent possible so as to give effect to the original intent of the Parties as closely as possible.

19. Fees and Expenses. Whether or not the transactions contemplated hereby are consummated or the Bankruptcy Court Order is obtained, and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each Party will bear its respective fees, costs and expenses (including legal, accounting and other professional fees) incurred in connection with the preparation, negotiation, execution and performance of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, including with respect to each Party's respective obligations pursuant to Section 18. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any Party hereto brings an Action to enforce or interpret the terms and provisions of this Agreement, the prevailing Party in that Action shall be entitled to have and recover from the non-prevailing Party all such fees, costs and expenses (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees) as the prevailing Party may suffer or incur in the pursuit or defense of such action or proceeding.

20. Entire Agreement; No Other Representations. **THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AND NO RIGHTS ARE CREATED IN FAVOR OF ANY PARTY OTHER THAN AS SPECIFIED OR EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT. THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS, CONDITIONS, WARRANTIES, STATEMENTS, OR UNDERSTANDINGS (COLLECTIVELY, “REPRESENTATIONS”), EITHER ORAL OR WRITTEN, BETWEEN THE PARTIES OTHER THAN THOSE EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES EXPRESSLY AGREE THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INDUCED TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT BY ANY REPRESENTATIONS NOT SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT; AND THE PARTIES EXPRESSLY AGREE THAT THEY HAVE NOT RELIED ON ANY REPRESENTATIONS NOT EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES EXPRESSLY AGREE THAT THEY ARE ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT RELYING SOLELY ON THEIR OWN JUDGMENT AND NOT ON ANY REPRESENTATIONS BY ANY PARTY, EXCEPT FOR THOSE REPRESENTATIONS EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT REPRESENTATIONS NOT EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BE USED IN THE INTERPRETATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND NEITHER THE HMIT RELEASED PARTIES NOR THE HIGHLAND RELEASED PARTIES SHALL HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING AS A RESULT OF ANY REPRESENTATIONS NOT SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT.**

21. Agreement and Release Knowing and Voluntary. The Parties acknowledge that they have considered this Agreement with their respective attorneys and have carefully read this Agreement, that it has been fully explained by their attorneys, and that they have had a reasonable opportunity to consider this Agreement. The Parties further represent that they know and fully understand the contents of this Agreement, that they intend to be legally bound by this Agreement and the releases and covenants contained herein, and that they are signing this Agreement, including the release provisions herein, voluntarily and of their own free will and without coercion, and with the benefit of advice of counsel.

22. Cooperation. The Parties agree to perform any services or actions reasonably necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, including the execution and delivery of reasonable additional documents, instruments, conveyances and/or assurances, in good faith, and to reasonably communicate and cooperate with one another in this regard. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Section shall obligate the Highland Entities to assist the HMIT Entities in any way with respect to the Kirschner Claims, including the prosecution thereof.

23. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed pursuant to and governed by the laws of the State of Delaware (substantive and procedural) without reference to principles of conflicts of law that would result in the application of any other State’s laws.

24. Jurisdiction/Venue. The Parties hereby irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the Bankruptcy Court with respect to any action or proceeding arising out of or related

to this Agreement or the subject matter hereof; if (and only if) the Bankruptcy Court lacks personal or subject matter jurisdiction to adjudicate an action or proceeding arising out of or related to this Agreement or the subject matter hereof, then the Parties irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

25. No Admissions. All Parties acknowledge and agree that the matters set forth in this Agreement constitute the settlement and compromise of disputed Claims and that this Agreement shall not constitute the admission of any fact or liability by any of them regarding any Claim, including the Claims released hereunder, and neither the terms hereof, nor the fact of this Agreement itself, shall be evidence of any kind in any Action, other than an Action to enforce the terms of the Agreement or any instrument executed in connection herewith or any claim for damages or other relief for breach of any representation or warranty contained herein or in any instrument executed in connection herewith.

26. Other Provisions.

(a) This Agreement contains the entire agreement and understanding of the parties and supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, arrangements, and understandings relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. No representation, inducement, agreement, promise or understandings altering, modifying, amending, taking from or adding to, the terms and conditions hereof shall have any force or effect unless the same is in writing and validly executed by each of the Parties hereto.

(b) The waiver by any Party of any breach of, or default under, any provision of this Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach or default; provided, however, that for any such waiver to be enforceable, it shall be in writing and executed by the non-breaching Party.

(c) The headings contained in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall in no way restrict or otherwise affect the construction of the provisions hereof.

(d) The Parties shall each execute all documents and perform all acts necessary and proper to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

27. Notices. All notices required or permitted to be provided hereunder shall be afforded to the respective parties to and through their counsel, and shall be transmitted simultaneously by electronic mail (with PDF attachments, as necessary) and by telefax, addressed as follows:

To the Highland Entities:

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL AND JONES LLP

Jeffrey N. Pomerantz

John A. Morris

10100 Santa Monica Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90067-4003

310.277.6910

jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com
jmorris@pszjlaw.com

To the HMIT Entities:

KELLY HART PITRE

Louis M. Phillips
Amelia Hurt
301 Main Street, Suite 1600
225.381.9643
Louis.Phillips@Kellyhart.com
Amelia.Hurt@Kellyhart.com

28. Severability. Should any term, provision or paragraph of this Agreement be determined to be illegal or void or of no force and effect, the balance of the Agreement shall survive. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

29. Interpretive Provisions. Unless the express context otherwise requires: (a) the words “hereof,” “herein” and “hereunder” and words of similar import, when used in this Agreement, shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement; (b) words defined in the singular shall have a comparable meaning when used in the plural, and vice versa; (c) the words “Dollars” and “\$” mean U.S. dollars; (d) references herein to a specific Section, Subsection, Recital, Schedule or Exhibit shall refer, respectively, to Sections, Subsections, Recitals, Schedules or Exhibits of this Agreement; (e) wherever the word “include,” “includes” or “including” is used in this Agreement, it shall be deemed to be followed by the words “,without limitation,”; (f) references herein to any gender shall include each other gender; (g) references herein to any Person shall include such Person’s heirs, executors, personal representatives, administrators, successors and assigns; provided, however, that nothing contained in this clause (g) is intended to authorize any assignment or transfer not otherwise permitted by this Agreement; (h) with respect to the determination of any period of time, the word “from” means “from and including” and the words “to” and “until” each means “to but excluding”; (i) the word “or” shall be disjunctive but not exclusive; (j) the headings contained in this Agreement are intended solely for convenience and shall not affect the rights of the Parties; and (k) if the last day for the giving of any notice or the performance of any act required or permitted under this Agreement is a day that is not a Business Day, then the time for the giving of such notice or the performance of such action shall be extended to the next succeeding Business Day.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

HUNTER MOUNTAIN INVESTMENT TRUST

By _____
Name: Mark Patrick
Title: Administrator
Date: April __, 2025

RAND ADVISORS, LLC

By _____
Name: Mark Patrick
Title: President
Date: April __, 2025

RAND PE FUND I, LP

By: Rand PE Fund Management, LLC, its General Partner

By _____
Name: Mark Patrick
Title: President
Date: April __, 2025

RAND PE FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC

By _____
Name: Mark Patrick
Title: President
Date: April __, 2025

ATLAS IDF, LP

By: Atlas IDF GP, LLC, its General Partner

By _____

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT COMMUNICATION
SUBJECT TO FED. R. EVID. 408
DRAFT 4/28/25

Name: Mark Patrick
Title: President
Date: April __, 2025

ATLAS IDF GP, LLC

By

Name: Mark Patrick
Title: President
Date: April __, 2025

HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, L.P.

By

Name: James. P. Seery, Jr.
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Date: April __, 2025

HIGHLAND CLAIMANT TRUST

By

Name: James P. Seery, Jr.
Title: Claimant Trustee
Date: April __, 2025

HIGHLAND LITIGATION SUB-TRUST

By

Name: Marc S. Kirschner
Title: Litigation Trustee
Date: April __, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT TO FED. R. EVID. 408

DRAFT 4/28/25

HIGHLAND INDEMNITY TRUST

By

Name: James P. Seery, Jr.
Title: Indemnity Trust Administrator
Date: April __, 2025